

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00803 091340Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 EA-06 CIAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4709
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

S E C R E T ZAGREB 803

LIMDIS

FOR VEST FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, YO
SUBJECT: TITO

1. I WAS AT THE AIRPORT YESTERDAY TO WELCOME PRESIDENT TITO
BACK FROM HIS MOSCOW-PYONGYANG-PEKING ADVENTURE (DON'T GET
NERVOUS, THE REST OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS THERE TOO).
WHILE I ADMIT I AM NEITHER AN EXPERT IN GERIATRICS NOR, INDEED,
THE LESS SPECIALIZED ASPECTS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, I NEVER-
THELESS OFFER THESE REFLECTIONS ON MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE
GENTLEMAN.

2. MY OVERWHELMING SENSE WAS THAT HERE WAS A VERY OLD AND VERY
TIRED FELLOW. ADMITTEDLY, WHEN HE ALIGHTED FROM HIS AIRCRAFT
AND REVIEWED HIS TROOPS HE STOOD RAMROD STRAIGHT AND STEPPED
ALONG AT A SPRITELY PACE. BUT WHEN HE CAME DOWN THE DIPLOMATIC
RECEIVING LINE AND I GOT A CLOSER LOOK MY IMPRESSION CHANGED.
HIS SKIN IS HEAVILY MARKED WITH THOSE FRECKLE-LIKE BLOTCHES
THAT ARE A MARK OF OLD AGE. HIS EYES WERE GLAZED AND HIS HAND-
SHAKE WEAK. HE GAVE A SHORT ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLED MULTITUDE
(AFTER FINISHING WITH US DIPLOMATS) IN A WEAK VOICE AND WITH A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00803 091340Z

MARKED SLUR TO HIS SPEECH.

3. I AM ENOUGH OF A VETERAN OF LONG TRIPS OF THE KIND TITO HAS
JUST FINISHED TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN HAVE AN AWFUL IMPACT ON THE
STRONGEST OF MEN (INDEED, MY DESCRIPTION OF TITO ABOVE WOULD HAVE
BEEN A MILD ANALYSIS OF MY CONDITION AFTER SOME OF THE HEGIRAS
YOU AND I TOOK WITH HAK A FEW YEARS AGO). BUT DESPITE ALL THAT,

I CANNOT GET OVER HOW OLD AND WEAK HE APPEARED* IN ANY EVENT,
I PASS THESE OBSERVATIONS ON TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO
MAKE COMPARISON WITH YOUR OWN MEETING WITH HIM DURING THE MONDALE
VISIT.

4. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT TITO MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE: HE DID
NOT STOP TO TELL ME HOW HONORED HE WAS TO HAVE ME HERE AND WHAT
A FINE JOB I AM DOING. MAYBE NEXT TIME. KAISER

SECRET

NNN

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